

the U.S. Army's 2nd Battalion in the 10th Mountain Division and had achieved his life-long goal of earning the distinction of serving as a U.S. Army Ranger. As our nation and my community struggles with this sudden loss, I would like to pause and recognize Staff Sergeant Hall and the ultimate sacrifice paid by him and his family.

Jeffrey was an eight-year veteran of the United States Army, earning many well-deserved awards and decorations including two Army Commendation Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, a NATO Medal and a Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. This was Jeffrey's third tour in Afghanistan. He was an American Hero who believed in his mission and told his father that this was a sacrifice he was willing to make to protect his country and the freedoms we enjoy.

Jeffrey Hall was a soldier but he was also a loving son to his parents Charles and Annette, a devoted husband to his wife Allison and eleven months ago became a father to Audrey Faith. Jeffrey loved life and his family and the outpouring of love and affection by his family and friends is the real tribute to the man that he was and the life that he led.

Staff Sergeant Hall is an inspiring example that we can all look up to and aspire to be like. He put the safety of all Americans before his own, and the people of this nation will be forever grateful. He motivated and inspired those around him and will be greatly missed by all who knew him, and by those who never had the honor and privilege of meeting him.

Our country lost a great soldier and an even better son last Monday. All of us in north Alabama are deeply saddened by Jeffrey's passing. On behalf of the entire community in the Tennessee Valley, across Alabama and a grateful nation, I rise today to remember SSG Jeffrey Allen Hall and to pay tribute to his honor, his sacrifice and his memory.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, please excuse me for departing early on Thursday, June 4, 2009. I left for personal reasons due to the severe illness of my brother. If I would have been here, I would have voted for H.R. 626, the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act of 2009.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE RETIREMENT OF RICHARD A. GILTS AS PERRYSBURG POLICE CHIEF

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I pay a very special tribute to an outstanding Police Chief in the Fifth District of Ohio. Richard A. Gilts of Perrysburg, Ohio has been serving the area for Thirty-Nine years, where he was promoted as the Sixth Chief of Police of Perrysburg in 2003.

Madam, Speaker, there is no question that the safety of our citizens is vital. In January of 1976, when Richard was hired on to the Perrysburg Police Division, he rose through the ranks to become Sergeant in 1983 and Lieutenant in 1993. The safety of its citizens is of utmost importance to the city. Chief Gilts has demonstrated his commitment to this goal through his involvement in programs such as Safety Town, D.A.R.E., and the Perrysburg Police Foundation. Chief Gilts was an active member of Rotary International, having served as the President of the Perrysburg Rotary Chapter from 2005 to 2006.

On August 12, 2004, Chief Gilts dedicated a new 26,000 square foot police facility, which replaced the 4800 square foot station that was constructed at the same location in 1965. On August 28, 2004, Chief Gilts and the Police Division assisted with operational matters during a visit by President George W. Bush at the historic Fort Meigs Memorial Park. In the week leading up to the event, Chief Gilts and the Department were consumed by logistical and tactical issues, such as procurement and placement of equipment and props, fencing, barriers, site and crowd security, medical assistance, personnel scheduling and perimeter security.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute for the service of Chief Gilts. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I wish Chief Gilts all of the best in his future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE IN REMEMBRANCE OF RONALD S. CLINTON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ronald S. Clinton, dedicated community leader and advocate.

Ron Clinton's remarkable twenty year experience is highlighted by a personal dedication to organizational effectiveness and empowering others to succeed. He has devoted most of his professional services to the areas of assessment, consultation, development, planning and management services for small, mid-size and large companies.

Mr. Clinton graduated from Boriqua College with a bachelor's degree in Human Services. He continued his graduate studies at Yeshiva University where he received his Masters of Social Work and specialized in community organizing. It was during this time that Mr. Clinton pursued and developed Helping Hands Unlimited, Inc. (HHU), a not-for-profit organization. It was through HHU that Mr. Clinton created and committed himself to the mission of bringing qualified health professionals into impoverished communities to ensure the delivery of quality care.

Mr. Clinton is President and Founder of Helping Hands Unlimited, Inc. He has represented clients in various capacities working closely with inter-governmental affairs at the city, state and federal levels ensuring the public interest of his clients. One of his paramount goals is to build a creative and aspiring consulting company over a strong foundation and guiding principles of leadership and success.

As a community leader and activist, Mr. Clinton serves on numerous boards and com-

mittees. His drive and passion for effecting positive change are evident through his personal efforts and commitment to stay involved in community service. The vast influential relationships he built over the years strengthened his solid position among his colleagues. Mr. Clinton served as the vice president of Pueblo democratic club in Williamsburg/Bushwick. He was elected as the Democratic Party's Kings County delegate for Al Gore's presidential candidacy. Mr. Clinton ran for the New York City Department of Education School District 32 School Board in 2002. In 2004, Mr. Clinton ran for New York State Senate and served as co-chair of the East New York and Brownsville HIV Care Network and is currently serving as chairperson of Woodhull Medical Center North Brooklyn Network Community Advisory Board.

Mr. Clinton enjoys spending time with his ten-year-old son, Ronald, coaching baseball, basketball and wrestling.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing a man of great conviction and dedication to community service, Ronald S. Clinton.

EMANUEL MENDEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Emanuel Mendez who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Emanuel Mendez is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Emanuel Mendez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Emanuel Mendez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

SUPPORTING BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, in celebration of the nation's largest youth scouting organization's 100th anniversary, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 356, a resolution expressing support for the designation of February 8, 2010, as "Boy Scouts of America Day."

The Boy Scouts of America is an outstanding organization that prepares young men to be the future leaders of our Nation. Since 1910, Scouting has helped mold these boys by combining educational activities and